

# John 4 - Lift Up Your Eyes And See

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## Start at the end of the story

39 **Many Samaritans** from that town **believed** in him ***because of the woman's testimony***, "He told me all that I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And ***many more believed because of his word***. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and ***we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.***"

**SAMARITANS** - When Assyria captured the northern kingdom some were taken in captivity while others left behind. The ones left behind intermarried with the Assyrians...half breed of sorts

- Here they understood that Jesus is the Savior of the world.
- **There was a revival of sorts, but how did we get here? There were barriers to overcome**
- We must be driven by the need for eternal life, not the barriers that may hinder

## The Barrier of The Uncomfortable Choice

Joh 4:1-42 ESV Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), 3 he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. 4 **And he had to pass through Samaria.** 5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, **near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.**

- Two ways to get to Galilee from Judea (1) through Samaria -- or (2) cross the Jordan twice
- Most Jews avoided Samaria, because of the animosity between the Jew and the Samaritan

## The Barrier of Personal Need (tired, thirsty and hungry)

6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, ***wearied*** as he was from his journey, was ***sitting*** beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "***Give me a drink.***" 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city ***to buy food.***)

## The Barrier of Prejudice

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a **Jew**, ask for ***a drink from me***, a **woman** of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

- A man talking to a woman -- A Jew talking to a Samaritan -- A Jew drinking from an unclean vessel

## The Barrier of Knowledge

10 Jesus answered her, "***If you KNEW*** the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' ***you would have ASKED him, and he would have GIVEN you living water.***" 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but ***whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.*** The water that I will give him will become **in him a spring of water** welling up to **eternal life.**"

- He was interested in giving this woman ETERNAL LIFE - he was not drawn into arguments

## The Barrier of Sin - i.e. Quenching our thirst with that which never satisfies

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, **give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty** or have to come here to draw water." 16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." 19 The woman said to him, "**Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.**

- He knew her sin yet did not avoid her nor condemn her
- Rather he used it to reveal to her that HE KNOWS HER, YET IS PURSUING HER - we love darkness and hide from the light - JESUS GOES THERE
- If began to raise her awareness of who Jesus is - Vs 9 - **at first she saw him as a Jewish man, but in Vs 19 - she sees him as a prophet**

## The Barrier of Religious Arguments

20 Our **fathers** worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship **the Father**. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for **salvation is from the Jews**. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**, for **the Father is seeking** such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

- Once again Jesus brings the discussion to her real need, a relationship with God
- Our **father** Jacob, our **fathers** worshiped on this mountain...--a day is coming when you will worship **THE FATHER**
- **The Father is Seeking**

## The Barrier of Understanding - Her eyes were opened, the Apostles are blind

25 The woman said to him, "**I know that Messiah is coming** (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "**I who speak to you am he.**" 27 Just then his disciples came back. **They marveled** that he was **talking with a woman**, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"

- Now she receives the revelation **Jesus is the Messiah**
- An amazing miracle had just taken place, and the APOSTLES ARE BLIND (Why is He talking to a woman? -- Rabbi Eat)

## What you "SEE" effects What you "DO"

28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 "**Come, see** a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" 30 **They went out of the town and were coming to him.** 31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "**Rabbi, eat.**"

- The apostles were in the town, and got the food, probably avoided contact with the Samaritans
- They brought FOOD and urged him to EAT (what they saw was physical / natural)
- They brought no one from the town to see Jesus
- Many from the town came to Jesus because of HER testimony

## Food to Eat / Eyes to See

32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.**" 35 Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? **Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.** 36 Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

- Jesus life was about more than earthly comfort - he understood he had a mission - "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work**"
- Jesus saw the crowd coming from the city and told His apostle - **lift up your eyes and see**
- They would have **missed the revival** because all they could see was NATURAL FOOD to fill a NATURAL HUNGER and multiple barriers
- They would have failed to have a conversation with the woman because of the barriers
- Consequently all the people who believed (on this day), would have been without a witness.

Give me eyes to see

Give me a heart that sees opportunities rather than barriers

Give me hunger for YOUR Work